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## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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FY 2005 BUDGET HEARINGS  
February 2004

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In the 2002 Joint Chairmen's Report, the Office of the Public Defender was asked to measure its workload in each of its districts against ABA caseload standards.


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### ABA STANDARDS

| FELONIES             | Misdemeanors         | JUVENILE             |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 150<br>cases/yr/atty | 400<br>cases/yr/atty | 200<br>cases/yr/atty |

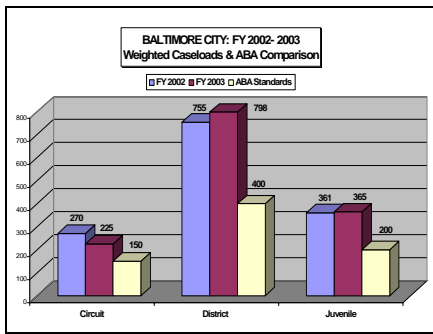
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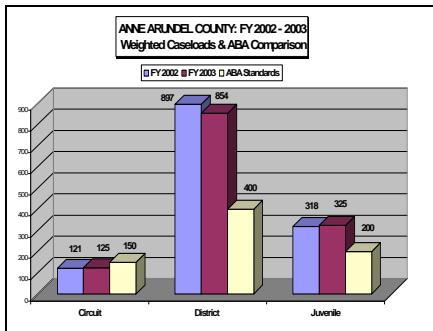
### OPD Response

- The OPD submitted its response documenting the comparison which showed:
  - OPD attorney caseloads exceeded ABA standards in every district.
  - Some attorney caseloads were more than double the ABA standards.

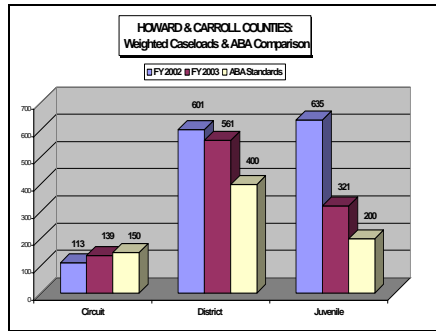
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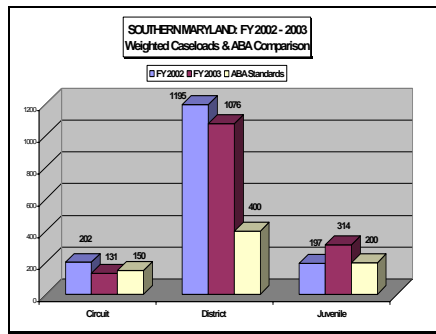
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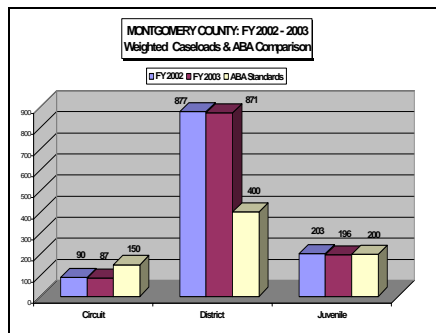
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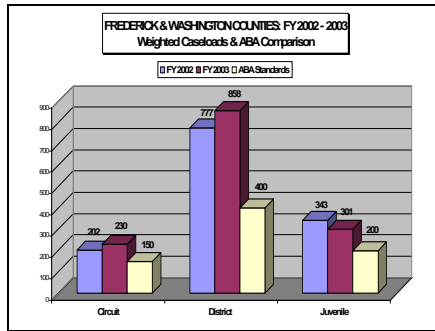
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**OPD Caseload Initiative**


- In 2001, as a solution to increasing caseloads, OPD proposed a Caseloads Initiative that would phase in, over 3 years, additional positions so that OPD could meet American Bar Association standards which were exceeded in every district.

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**Governor Ehrlich Immediately Adopted Caseloads Initiative**

- Committed to bring caseloads into compliance with ABA standards in 3 fiscal years: FY 2004, FY 2005, & FY 2006.
- Appropriated 58.5 new positions in Fiscal Year 2004.


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### Budget Committees Endorsed

- Both the budget sub-committees in the House & Senate endorsed and advocated for the funding of the caseloads initiative last year.
- The General Assembly approved the Caseloads Initiative and approved full funding for the first year of the phase-in in FY 2004.


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### Fiscal Year 2004 New PINS

- New FY 2004 PINS are allocated to districts with the greatest immediate need:
  - Baltimore City - circuit court, district court & juvenile court.
  - Southern Maryland - district court.
  - Frederick & Washington Co.'s - juvenile & district court.
  - Lower Shore - district court.

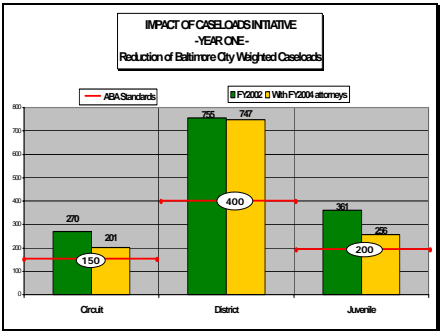
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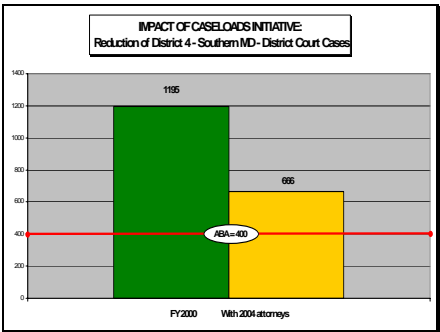
### Fiscal Year 2004 New PINS

- Immediate impact of these new positions is demonstrated by the following charts.

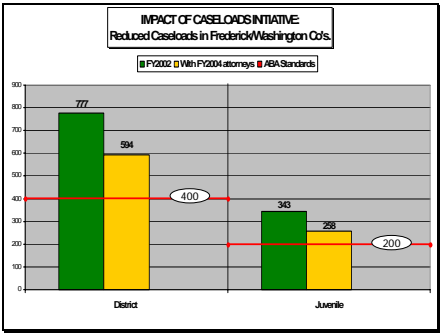
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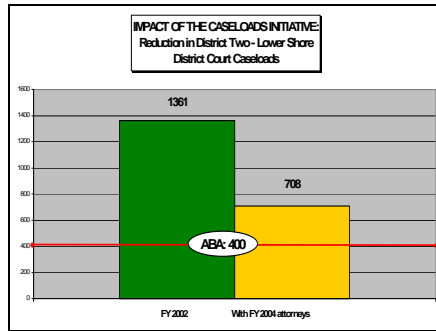
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**Caseload Initiative  
Year Two – FY 2005**

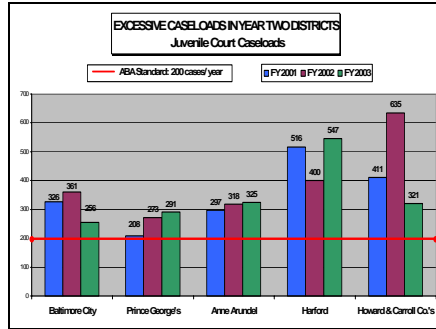
- The Governor's allowance appropriates 69 New PINS to the OPD for fiscal year 2005.

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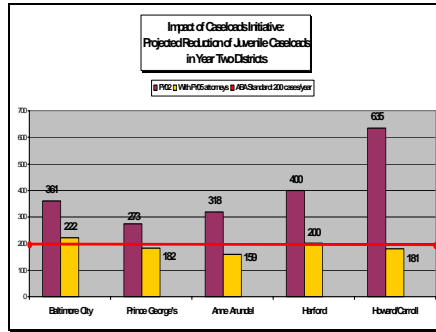
**Caseload Initiative  
Year Two – FY 2005**

- To be allocated to:
  - Baltimore City
  - Prince George's County
  - Anne Arundel County
  - Harford County
  - Howard/Carroll
- With a focus on resolving excessive juvenile caseloads.

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**Caseload Initiative**  
**Year Two – FY 2005**

- Full funding of the 68.5 positions will allow the OPD to address many concerns raised in the ABA assessment of the juvenile justice system:
  - Reduced caseloads
  - Investigation of alternatives to detention & commitment
  - Counsel for all children



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## THANK YOU

Thank you for your continuing support  
of the Office of the Public Defender.